

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: PETER REUTLINGER ET AL.  
Serial No.: To Be Assigned Group Art Unit:  
Filed: Herewith Examiner:  
Title: TOWING DEVICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The relevance of the DE10004523 reference to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

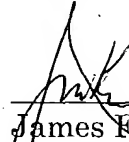
English abstracts of the two German Patent documents are submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

July 11, 2003



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FORM PTO-1449    U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Attorney Docket No. 28987.52350US	Serial No. To Be Assigned
	Applicant:     Peter REUTLINGER, et al.	
	Filing Date Herewith	Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	TRANSLATION	
							Yes	No
	AK	10004523	08/2001	Germany				
	AL	19612959	10/1997	Germany				Abstract
	AM	10023640	11/2001	Germany				Abstract
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AQ						
	AR						
	AS						

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER:    Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.	